Quarterly Population Report

Fourth Quarter 2014

Growth slows, but still leads the country[1]

Alberta's population hit an estimated 4,160,044 as of January 1, 2015, an increase of 14,052 over the previous three months (Table 1). At 0.34%, the province's quarterly growth rate was well below last year's fourth quarter growth of 0.51%, but still about 4.5 times the national rate of 0.08%.

Year-over-year, Alberta's population growth of 2.47%[2] led all the provinces, more than doubling the national average (1.04%) (Table 2). Over the calendar year, the province added just over 100,000 new residents.

Migration

Migration continued to add to Alberta's population in the fourth quarter, albeit at a much slower pace than the recent past. The province welcomed 6,530 net migrants from other parts of Canada and the world, about half the level from the fourth quarter of last year. This year's fourth quarter migration gains were the lowest since the fourth quarter of 2010 (Figure 1).

Interprovincial Migration

Alberta led the nation with the strongest net inflow of migrants from other parts of the country (4,178), although it was the lowest fourth quarter gain since 2010. Despite this moderating trend, interprovincial migration accounted for about 30% of the population growth in the fourth quarter. In addition to Alberta, only British Columbia and Saskatchewan experienced interprovincial net gains over the quarter. The largest net outflows were experienced by Ontario (-2,416), Quebec (-1,638), and Manitoba (1,041) (Table 4). Most of Alberta's newcomers arrived from Ontario (2,768), Quebec (625) and Nova Scotia (459). Alberta

1 All data are from Statistics Canada. Estimates from 2007–2015 are based on the 2011 Census adjusted for net census undercount and incompletely enumerated Indian Reserves. All estimates are subject to revision.

2 This growth represents year-over-year variation (January 1, 2014 to January 1, 2015)

Table 1: Population & Growth Rates Canada and Alberta

Population			Yearly Growth Rate		
1-Jan	Canada	Alberta	1-Jan	Canada	Alberta
2010	33,807,668	3,702,578	2010	1.14%	1.76%
2011	34,165,913	3,754,621	2011	1.06%	1.41%
2012	34,539,780	3,830,104	2012	1.09%	2.01%
2013	34,935,263	3,940,179	2013	1.15%	2.87%
2014	35,335,266	4,059,691	2014	1.14%	3.03%
2015	35,702,707	4,160,044	2015	1.04%	2.47%

Figure 1: Alberta Components of Population Change, 4th Quarter

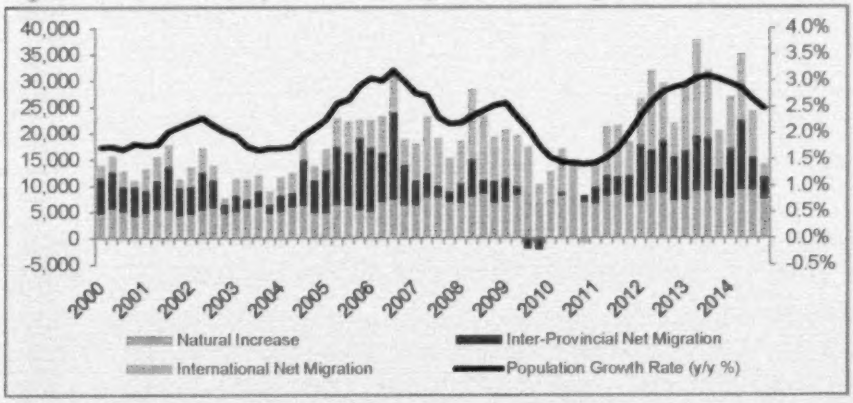

Table 2: Population of Provinces/ Territories

	Population	Growth Rate y/y
Canada	35,702,707	1.04%
NL	526,329	-0.41%
PEI	146,455	0.67%
NS	943,575	0.05%
NB	754,260	-0.10%
QC	8,239,910	0.74%
ON	13,733,544	0.87%
MB	1,289,792	1.31%
SK	1,132,640	1.56%
AB	4,160,044	2.47%
BC	4,659,272	1.18%
YT	36,589	1.17%
NWT	43,595	-0.77%
NVT	36,702	2.11%

experienced net outflows to British Columbia for the second consecutive quarter (Map 1).

Net International Migration

Net international migration this quarter was more subdued, moderating from the fourth quarter highs of the last three years. Alberta welcomed 2,352 residents from other countries, accounting for 0.06% of Alberta's growth this quarter.

In the fourth quarter, Alberta attracted its largest share of immigrants to Canada on record at 17.6%, second only to Ontario (37.0%).

The province settled 9,180 new permanent residents, a record number for the fourth quarter. However, this strong inflow of immigrants was tempered by a net outflow of NPRs (-5,488), the largest outflow since the fourth quarter of 2010. In the past few years, strong inflows of net NPRs have helped to boost Alberta's population growth (Table 5), but this component can be variable. The outflows seen this quarter have weighed on international migration and slowed population growth.

Table 3: Quarterly Components of Population Growth in Alberta

Population October 1, 2014		4,145,992
Interprovincial Migration		4,178
plus	Interprovincial Arrivals	15,155
minus	Interprovincial Departures	10,977
International Migration		2,352
plus	Immigrants	9,180
minus	Net Emigrants*	1,340
plus	Non-Permanent Residents	-5,488
Natural Increase		7,522
plus	Births	13,534
minus	Deaths	6,012
Population January 1, 2015		4,160,044

* includes emigrants, net temporary emigrants and returning emigrants

Natural Increase

Alberta has a high natural growth rate that is relatively stable, regardless of economic conditions. The provincial population grew by 7,522 people this quarter due to natural increase (births minus deaths) alone (Table 3), leading all provinces with a natural growth rate of 0.18%. Over the last decade, fourth quarter natural growth rates have been stable around 0.2%.

Contact

Alison Yacyshyn 780.427.8716

Map 1: Net Population Movement for Alberta October 1 to December 31, 2014

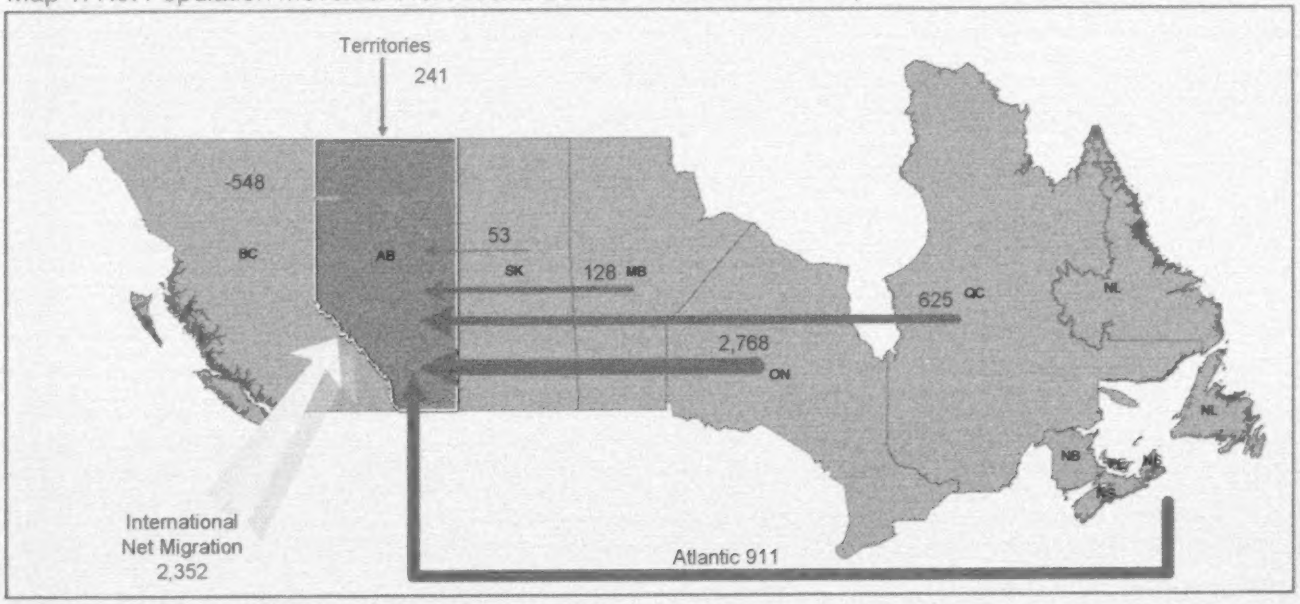

Table 4: Origin and Destination of Interprovincial Migrants October 1 to December 31, 2014

Origin	Destination												
	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
NL	0	53	172	38	117	305	86	17	462	128	0	0	36
PEI	41	0	122	20	0	72	0	0	183	12	0	0	0
NS	84	0	0	341	42	868	20	40	811	260	58	0	7
NB	24	14	450	0	247	603	38	42	545	59	0	14	0
QC	26	0	110	210	0	3,206	106	79	1,285	631	7	0	19
ON	413	89	615	568	2,398	0	497	756	5,599	2,659	18	48	12
MB	35	13	33	22	131	642	0	409	638	782	21	20	0
SK	0	4	102	14	0	616	262	0	1,574	797	0	24	0
AB	376	87	352	275	660	2,831	510	1,521	0	4,189	71	88	17
BC	25	28	200	88	422	1,975	177	560	3,641	0	32	48	0
YT	0	0	0	0	12	9	9	26	148	181	0	0	0
NWT	0	0	58	0	0	70	0	83	269	54	0	0	0
NVT	11	16	0	41	12	59	0	0	0	0	19	0	0

	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
IN	1,035	304	2,214	1,617	4,041	11,256	1,705	3,533	15,155	9,752	226	242	91
OUT	1,414	450	2,531	2,036	5,679	13,672	2,746	3,393	10,977	7,196	385	534	158
NET	-379	-146	-317	-419	-1,638	-2,416	-1,041	140	4,178	2,556	-159	-292	-67

Q4 2014	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
Outflow to AB	462	183	811	545	1285	5599	638	1574	0	3641	148	269	0
Inflow from AB	376	87	352	275	660	2831	510	1521	0	4189	71	88	17
Net Flow to AB	86	96	459	270	625	2,768	128	53	0	-548	77	181	-17

Table 5: Alberta Components of Growth by Quarter

Quarters in Census Year	Interprovincial Migration			International Migration						Total	Vital Events		Total*
	In	Out	Net	Immigrants	Net Non-Permanent Residents	Emigrants	Net Temporary Emigrants	Returning Emigrants	Net	Total Net Migration	Births	Deaths	Sum of Components
2010-11													
Jul-Sep	16,766	16,767	-1	9,485	-1,792	2,165	710	1,942	6,760	6,759	13,218	5,110	14,867
Oct-Dec	12,428	11,098	1,330	6,667	-6,610	1,511	475	868	-1,061	269	12,222	5,438	7,053
Jan-Mar	15,768	12,608	3,160	5,916	-309	1,607	471	852	4,381	7,541	12,203	5,582	14,162
Apr-Jun	19,013	15,059	3,954	8,389	1,460	1,459	628	1,569	9,331	13,285	13,210	5,176	21,319
Total	63,975	55,532	8,443	30,457	-7,251	6,742	2,284	5,231	19,411	27,854	50,853	21,306	57,401
2011-12													
Jul-Sep	20,972	17,495	3,477	8,970	2,607	2,966	680	1,843	9,774	13,251	13,404	5,117	21,538
Oct-Dec	14,677	9,560	5,117	7,690	6	1,550	548	795	6,393	11,510	12,223	5,358	18,375
Jan-Mar	21,569	10,849	10,720	7,520	2,560	1,529	528	794	8,817	19,537	12,740	5,712	26,565
Apr-Jun	23,619	15,281	8,338	10,386	5,391	1,621	529	1,432	15,059	23,397	13,870	5,304	31,963
Total	80,837	53,185	27,652	34,566	10,564	7,666	2,285	4,864	40,043	67,695	52,237	21,491	98,441
2012-13													
Jul-Sep	23,833	13,735	10,098	9,086	3,701	3,001	680	1,843	10,949	21,047	13,856	5,317	29,586
Oct-Dec	14,808	6,394	8,414	9,103	-1,336	1,571	548	795	6,443	14,857	12,679	5,575	21,961
Jan-Mar	19,648	10,163	9,485	8,095	5,737	1,549	528	794	12,549	22,034	13,230	5,944	29,320
Apr-Jun	26,313	15,712	10,601	10,582	8,330	1,640	529	1,432	18,175	28,776	14,446	5,522	37,700
Total	84,602	46,004	38,598	36,866	16,432	7,761	2,285	4,864	48,116	86,714	54,211	22,358	118,567
2013-14													
Jul-Sep	26,616	16,347	10,269	9,156	5,487	3,032	680	1,843	12,774	23,043	14,483	5,543	31,983
Oct-Dec	17,477	11,814	5,663	8,806	-60	1,587	548	795	7,406	13,069	13,248	5,808	20,509
Jan-Mar	24,296	14,715	9,581	10,346	699	1,566	528	794	9,745	19,326	13,809	6,187	26,948
Apr-Jun	33,111	19,907	13,204	12,708	601	1,658	530	1,432	12,553	25,757	15,042	5,746	35,053
Total	101,500	62,783	38,717	41,016	6,727	7,843	2,286	4,864	42,478	81,195	56,582	23,284	114,493
2014-15													
Jul-Sep	22,179	15,859	6,320	10,289	431	3,032	680	1,843	8,851	15,171	14,874	5,745	24,300
Oct-Dec	15,155	10,977	4,178	9,180	-5,488	1,587	548	795	2,352	6,530	13,534	6,012	14,052
Jan-Mar	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Apr-Jun	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	37,334	26,836	10,498	19,469	-5,057	4,619	1,228	2,638	11,203	21,701	28,408	11,757	38,352